

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Mississippi Baptists set record budget

By William H. Perkins Jr., editor  
*The Baptist Record*

A total of 1,558 messengers from the 2,073 Mississippi Baptist churches, meeting in the 165th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson, ratified without opposition a record Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$30,047,997 for 2001.

Messengers also reelected by acclamation Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, to a second one-year term as president.

William "Bill" Smith III, director of missions for Lee Association in Tupelo, will serve a second term as first vice-president after defeating Randy Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, in this year's only contested race for convention office.

Smith outpolled Turner 398-337.

Dale Holloway, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Florence, was reelected by acclamation

to a second term as second-vice president.

Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, was reelected by acclamation to another term as recording secretary, and Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was reelected by acclamation to another term as assistant recording secretary.

Fermin Whittaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, preached from Matt. 9, where Jesus appealed to his disciples to pray for workers for the plentiful harvest.

"Jesus Christ is the only answer," he said. "If you and I are going to change this nation, we must do it one heart at a time."

Ernest Sadler, director of missions for Jackson Association in Pascagoula, delivered the convention sermon from Jer. 42, entitled, "Is That Your Final Answer?"

Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive director, introduced a video interview with James Sullivan, a native of Tylertown who has served in a number of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leadership positions, including SBC president and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources).

During the video, Futral and Sullivan discussed the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Cooperative Program and what the concept of unified giving has meant to Southern Baptists.

Futral also noted that since the beginning of the Cooperative Program in 1925, Mississippi Baptists have given almost \$527,000,000 through Southern Baptists' unified giving channel.

lutions encouraging pastors and churches to educate their congregations on "the critical issues of this most important election."

"I do not feel we should place this burden on our pastors," Pittman said.

Pittman proposed amending the resolution to omit that part, but Jimmy Walker, pastor of Tiplersville Church, Tiplersville, rose to oppose the amendment.

Messengers voted down Pittman's amendment and passed the resolution as originally worded.

- opposition to the legalization of the teaching of gambling courses in Mississippi's universities and community colleges.

- acknowledgement of the Bible as "our final authority for faith and practice."

Several messengers had proposed resolutions endorsing the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message or the 2000 revision of that document, but the resolutions committee pointed out that the Mississippi Baptist Convention had never officially adopted any

version of the confessional statement.

- criticism for the negative influence of the entertainment media on children.

- appreciation for the Cooperative Program on its 75th anniversary.

- concern for peace in Jerusalem.

- encouragement for organ donation.

"(C)omplete resurrection of the body does not depend on bodily wholeness at death," the resolution states.

- appreciation to First Church, Jackson, for hosting the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Jeff Parker, pastor of Southside Church, Jackson, offered a motion to direct the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee to study the role of Mississippi Baptist churches in transition areas, where the demographics of a neighborhood gradually change.

Parker received a standing ovation for his impassioned plea on behalf of people left behind when churches decide to move to suburban areas, and his motion was approved by messengers without a dissenting vote.

The Time, Place, and Preacher Committee reported that they had previously selected Parker to deliver the convention sermon at the 2001 annual meeting, scheduled for October 30-31 at First Church, Jackson.

The 2000 MBC annual meeting spotlighted bivocational ministers, who were invited to offer Scripture readings and prayers during the gathering.



NEW OFFICERS — Mississippi Baptist Convention officers for 2001 elected by messengers include (from left) Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, assistant recording secretary; Bill Smith, missions director for Lee Association in Tupelo, first vice-president; Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, president; Dale Holloway, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Florence, second vice-president; and Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, recording secretary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, delivered the closing sermon of the convention, reading from the beginning verses of John 1 and declaring, "There has never been a time when Jesus Christ did not exist. We need to remember where we came from, what we came for, and point people to Jesus."

Messengers also heard reports from the presidents of the three Baptist-affiliated colleges in Mississippi, the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, the Baptist Children's Village, and the Board of Ministerial Education.

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., presented the Bible Treasures series.

Messengers approved nine resolutions, including:

- appreciation for the life and ministry of E. Harold Fisher and his wife Martha. Harold Fisher has announced his retirement after 35 years as president of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

- encouraging Christians to vote in the national elections on November 7 and declaring November 6 a day of fasting and prayer "as we seek God's blessings and leadership..."

It was the only resolution that garnered opposition. Jimmy Pittman, a messenger from First Church, Hattiesburg, told messengers he objected to the portions of the reso-

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**JUST A LITTLE STICK** — Debra Reeves (above, left) of Canton, a student at the Mississippi College School of Nursing, administers a glucose screening to Paula Johnson, a member of Peoples Church, Ripley, during the October 31 health fair sponsored by the nursing school in conjunction with the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

**CALIFORNIA LEADER** — Fermin Whittaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, preaches at the October 31 morning session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**CONVENTION SERMON** — Ernest Sadler, (right) missions director for Jackson Association in Pascagoula, delivers the convention sermon during the October 31 afternoon session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



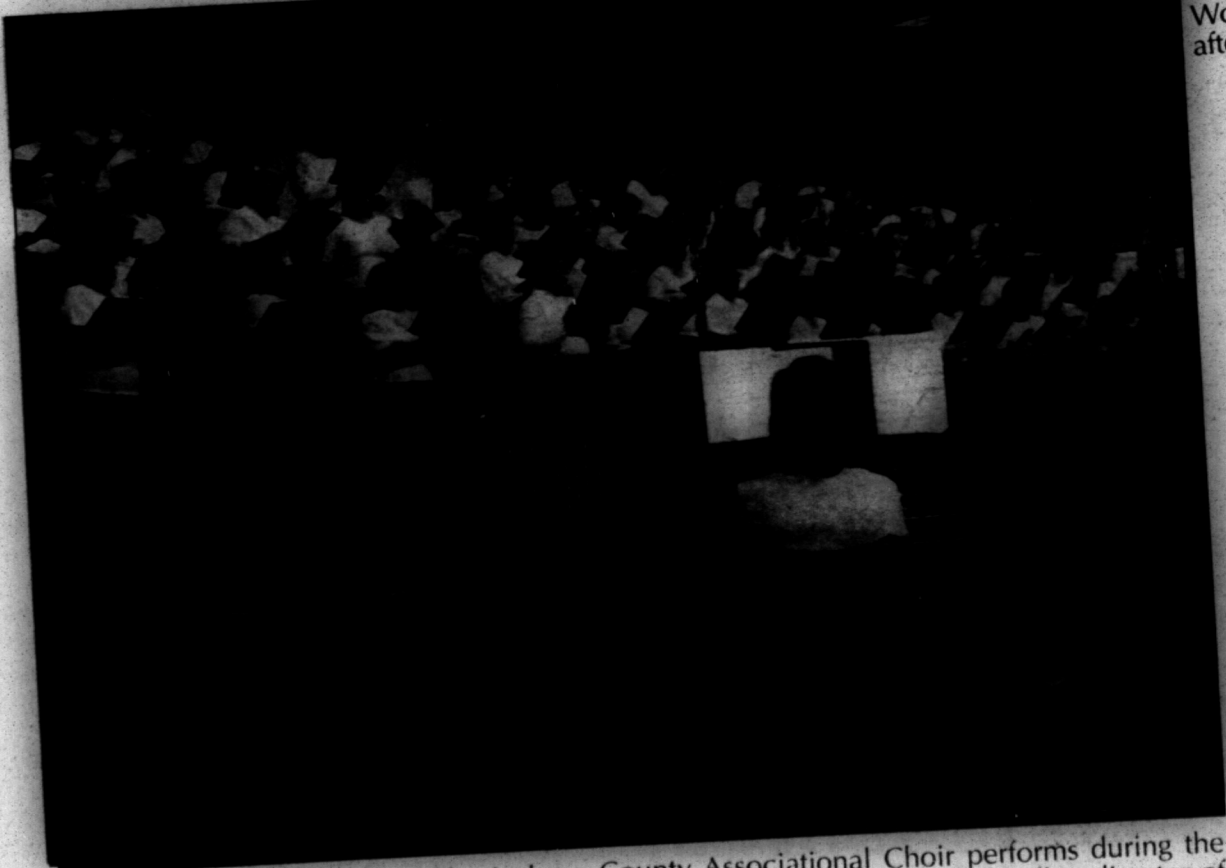
**CATCHING UP** — Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), talks with Joyce Barnes of Zachary, La., after the close of the October 31 morning session. Cassibry is the former executive director of Louisiana WMU, and Barnes served as Louisiana WMU president during Cassibry's tenure there. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



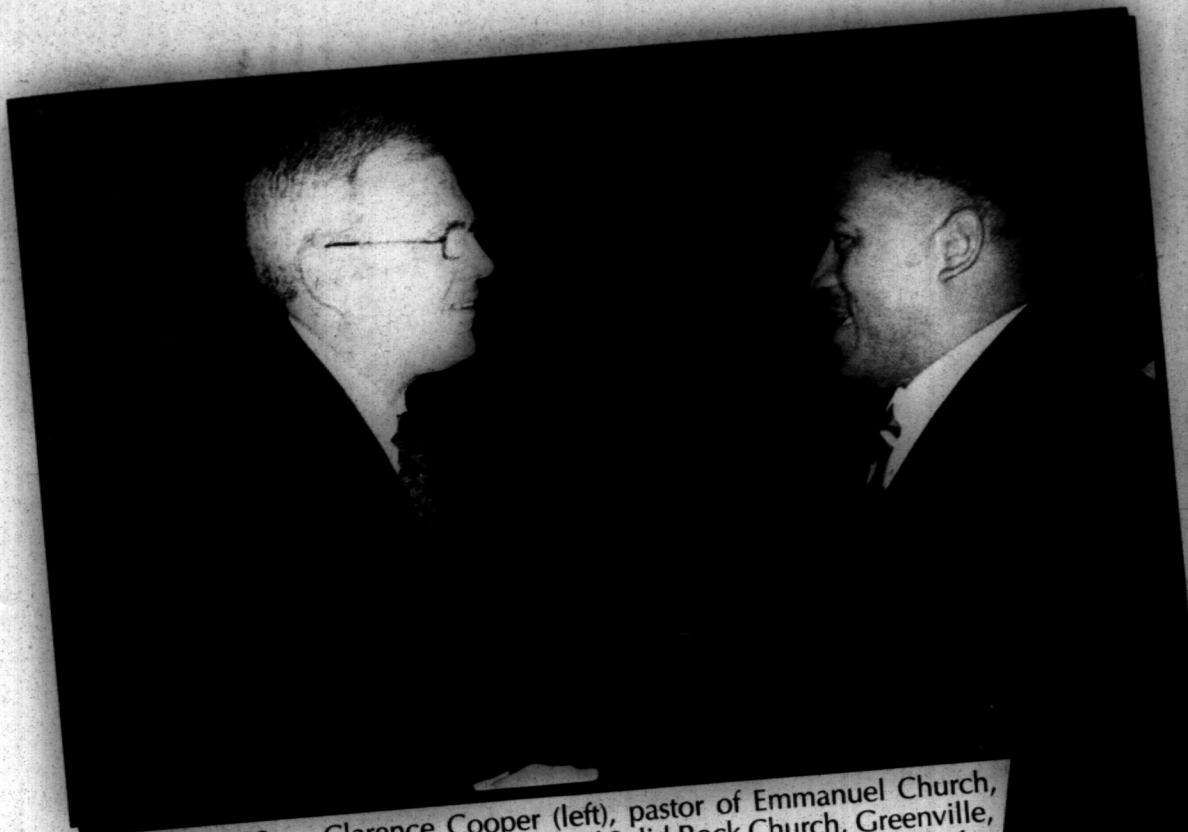
**EDUCATORS MEET** — Ben Atkinson, minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA), addresses the group during their pre-convention luncheon meeting at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, on October 30. MBREA officers include Atkinson; Paul Lee, president-elect; Terry Martinaz, first vice-president; Jody Hicks, second vice-president; and Lewis Harrell, secretary-treasurer. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**PRAISING THE LORD** — The Jackson County Associational Choir performs during the October 31 afternoon session, prior to the convention sermon by Ernest Sadler, director of missions for Jackson Association in Pascagoula. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)







**GREETINGS** — Clarence Cooper (left), pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, greets Alvester Brown, pastor of Solid Rock Church, Greenville, after the October 31 evening session. Brown offered the benediction for the session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

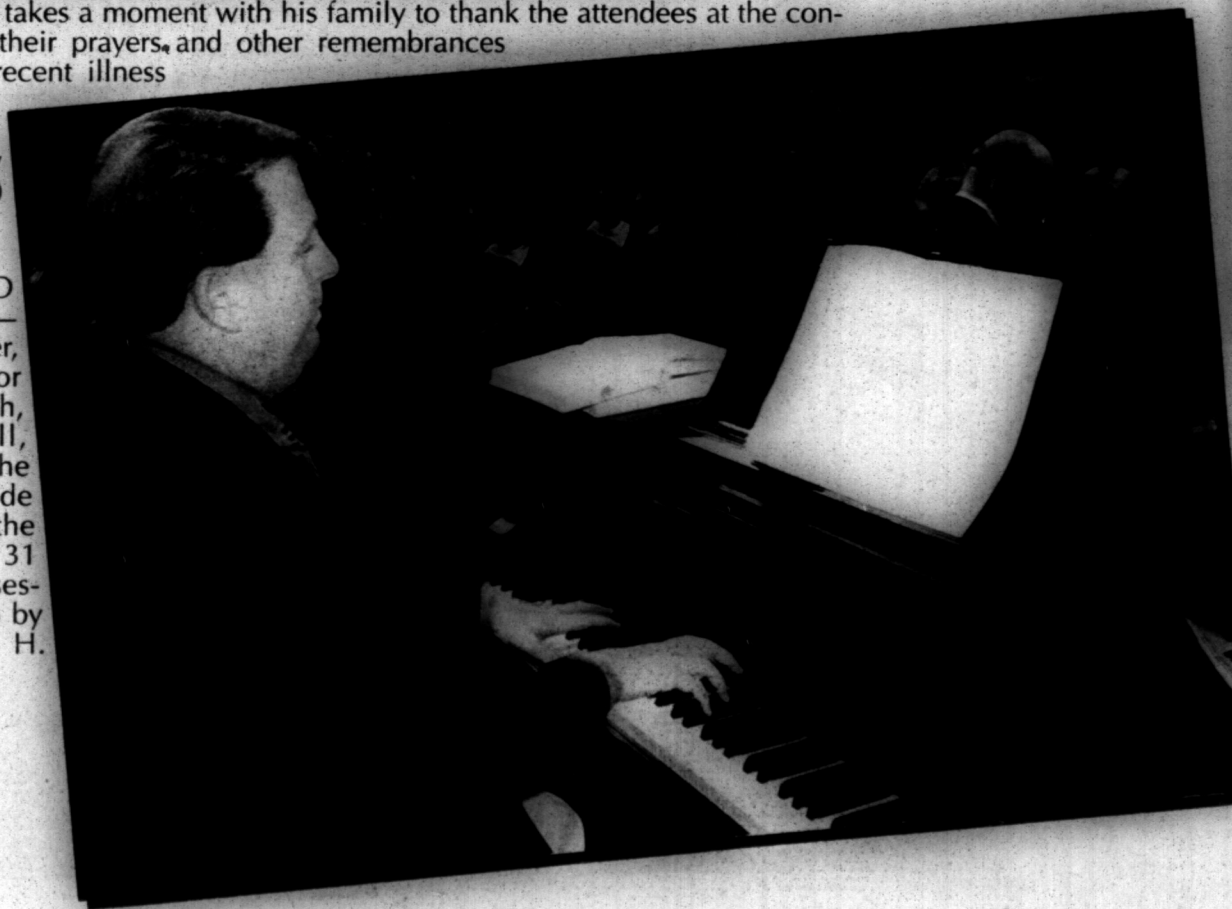


**THANKS** — Jim Futral (left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents certificates of thanks to Tommy Sparkman (right), chairman of the order of business committee, and Cortez Hutchinson (center), committee member, for three years service on the order of business committee. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**NOTE OF APPRECIATION** — Archie Herrin, director of missions for Marion Association, takes a moment with his family to thank the attendees at the convention for their prayers and other remembrances during the recent illness and death of his son. (Photo by Tony Martin)

**SOLO PRELUDE** — Max Ponder, pianist for First Church, Mendenhall, provides the solo prelude for the October 31 opening session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**LIFTING PRAISE** — The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen (pictured above) perform during the October 31 evening session. The popular group is composed of Mississippi Baptist ministers of music and laymen from around the state. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** — David Michel, associate executive director in the Church Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, displays a cake celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. (Photo by Tony Martin)



# Pastors urged to stand firm in culture war

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Pastors and church staff members from across Mississippi who gathered October 30 in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, for the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference heard exhortations to stand firm in the face of cultural pressure and to remember the mission left the church by Christ.

Kenny Digby, director of missions for Alcorn Association in Corinth, kicked off the afternoon session with a sermon from 2 Sam. 15, when King David ordered a retreat as the army of his son Absalom closed in on Jerusalem.

Referring to David's ultimate but costly victory over Absalom, Digby pointed out, "Retreat does not necessarily mean defeat."

Barry Clingan, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, preached from Matt. 21, telling attendees, "When you and I gather together, we are a spiritual house. When we are assembled, we are the church."

Bartholomew Orr, pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church in Southaven, preached from Dan. 3, when Shadrach,



**NEW OFFICERS** — Officers for the 2000-01 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference are (from left) Daryl Oster, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, president; Eric Thomas, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, president-elect; and Richard Johnson, former pastor of Tate Church, Corinth, immediate past president. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the king's golden idol.

"Why settle for an 'image'?" Orr asked.

Steve Gaines, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, Ala.,

opened the evening session with passages from Isa. 56 and Matt. 12.

"Make prayer a priority in your life," he pleaded.

Ike Reighard, pastor of North Star Church in

Kennesaw, Ga., preached from Hab. 2 and Gen. 15, titling his sermon "Becoming an instrument for noble purposes."

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga., the conference's final speaker, preached "It's still the cross," from 1 Cor. 1.

"God is very clear when he calls us. He calls us to preach," he pointed out.

Music for the conference was provided by Ricky and Dena Pike, music evangelists from Tate Church, Corinth; and YoYo Collins, music evangelist from Salina, OK.

Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist from Lucedale, led congregational singing.

Eric Thomas, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, was chosen by acclamation to serve as president-elect. Daryl Oster, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, was elevated from president-elect to president.

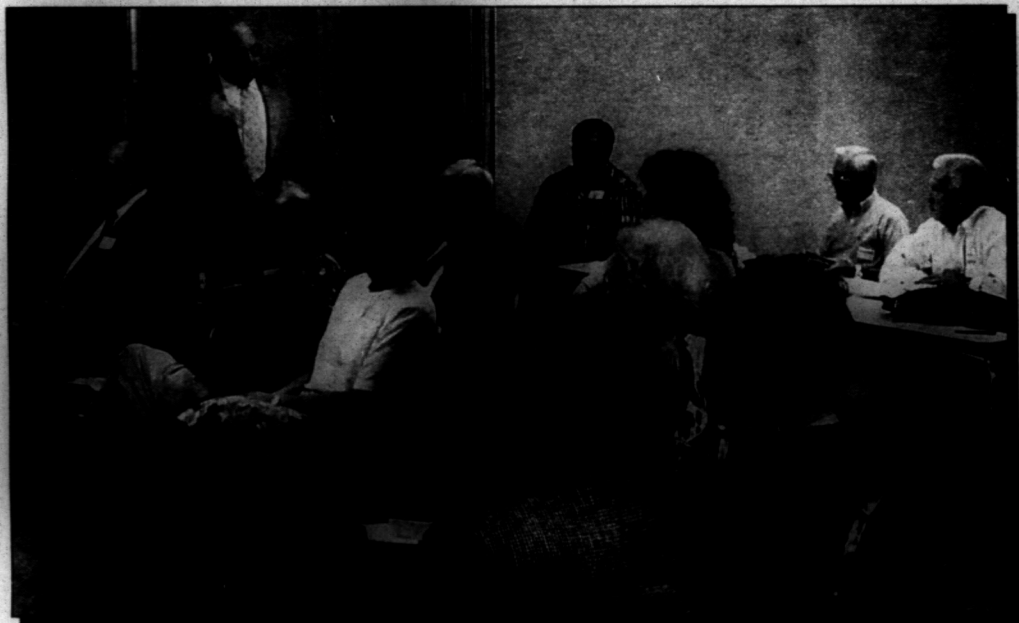
Richard Johnson, former pastor of Tate Church, Corinth, served as president of the 2000 conference.

The 2001 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference is scheduled for October 29 at First Church, Jackson.

## Lay Missions Conf. draws 275 to First, Brandon

By Tim Nicholas  
Staff Writer

The 2000 Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference attracted 275 people for mission fellowships and a banquet on October 30 at First Church, Brandon.



Robinson addresses Agricultural Missions Fellowship

The singing group Luz del Mundo (below right photo) or Light of the World, composed of leaders of Hispanic missions work in Mississippi, performed at the banquet. On guitar is Jose Lopez, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Forest.

Ronnie Robinson (above photo, standing) executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in Jackson, addresses the Agricultural Missions Fellowship meeting earlier in the afternoon. Over the past growing season, the fellowship has provided hundreds of pounds of home-grown vegetables for the children who live at the Village's multiple campuses across the state.

JoAnn Williams (above right photo) of Hickory gives her testimony to the

Volunteers in Mission group that also met earlier in the afternoon. Williams, a graduate of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg who also holds a master of business administration degree from Delta State University in Cleveland, reported October 31 for orientation at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) Missionary Learning Center in Richmond, Virginia.

On December 20, she will begin her duties as IMB journeyman, teaching business and English at a school in east Asia. Additionally, she will teach Bible and discipleship to Christians there.



Williams

"No matter what my conditions will be," said Williams, "I realize God's grace and love is bigger than that." She said she considers it an "awesome privilege" to give God's love away.

The 2001 Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference and banquet will be held October 29 at First Church, Jackson. For more information on the 2001 conference or lay missions in general, contact the Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS

39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: gwood@mbcb.org.

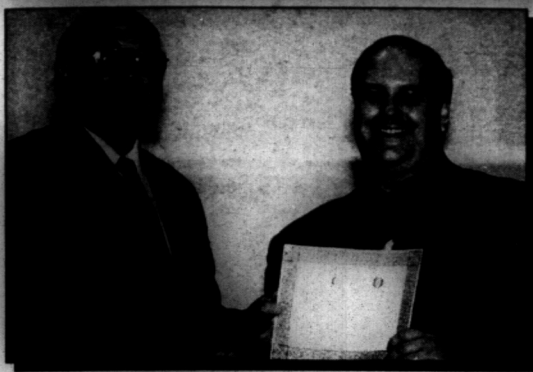


Luz del Mundo

Photos by Tim Nicholas



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Spruell and Pearce**

**Wade Church, Moss Point**, ordained McKay Pearce, music minister, and Brandon Rainey, youth minister, to the ministry on Oct. 1. Pictured (above from left) are William Spruell, outreach minister, and Pearce. Also pictured (below) with Spruell is Rainey.



**Spruell and Rainey**

### Michael's Watch

*But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." - Jude 1:9*

**Michael's Watch** is a support group whose sole purpose and mission is to offer emotional, mental, and spiritual support for those whose lives have been affected by family members or loved ones involved in the homosexual lifestyle.

**Michael's Watch Group** meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling **First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi** at (662) 773-6246.

**Johnny Martin** was ordained a deacon in Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, on Oct. 8. Martin was previously licensed to the ministry by Calvary Church and is available for preaching opportunities.

Pictured (from left) are Martin and John Voss, pastor.



**Martin and Voss**

**Bob Storie** has announced that as of Jan. 1, 2001 he will make the transition from full-time Director of Ministries, Jackson Association to director of Seaman's Ministries. At that time his responsibility to the association will be solely with the Seaman's Centers and their operation. A reception will be held for Storie and his wife Maudie on Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m., at the association's office building, Pascagoula. For additional information, call Jackson Association at (228) 769-7101.



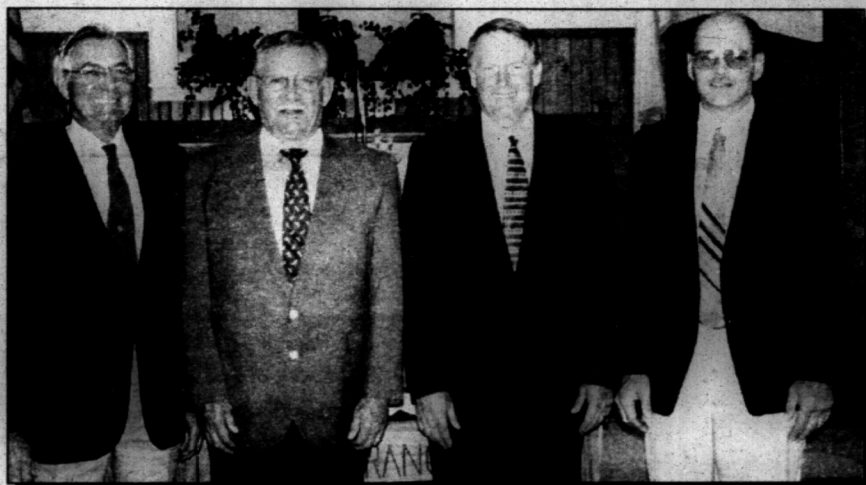
**J. Walker, Woods, C. Walker, and Neal**

**Richard Floyd** (formerly of Fellowship Church, Port Gibson) is available for supply, revivals, interim work, or pastorate. Contact Floyd at 179 Keriville Drive, Jackson, MS 39212 or call (601) 373-9236.

**First Church, Winona**, held deacon ordination for Clint Walker and Danny Woods on Oct. 8. Pictured (from left) are Johnny Walker, pastor; Woods; Clint Walker; and Harry Neal, chairman of deacons.

### One Voice to perform

One Voice will be in concert at Hillcrest Church, Jackson, on Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.



**Union Church, Brookhaven**, recently ordained three new deacons. Pictured (from left) are Keith Abrams, chairman of deacons; Roger Myrick, Moody Davis, and Robbie Eaton, newly-elected deacons.

**Charles Ted Hawkins** was ordained and licensed to preach by Lorena Church, Smith Association. Hawkins was called to pastor at Barefoot Springs Church, Scott Association. Pictured (from left) are Tommy Anderson, pastor; and Hawkins.



**Anderson and Hawkins**



**Greg Hodges** was ordained as deacon by Friendship East Church, Charleston. Pictured (from left) are J.G. Thomas, pastor; Hodges, and his wife, Michelle.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Hebron Church, Montgomery County**, dedicated its new Life Center on Oct. 1. The building is a multi-purpose education, fellowship, and gymnasium facility. Pictured are Billy Little, pastor; building committee and contractor: Loyce Palmertree, Mary Gilbert, Rudolph Hodges, Chuck Ingram, Jody Majure, Troy Hodges, Danny Campbell, and Thomas Burchfield. David Green and James Evans not pictured.

**Corinth Church, Purvis**, held a note burning ceremony during the morning service on Oct. 8. The church needed additional space for classrooms, offices, and nursery. A space of 20 feet between the Sunday School building and the fellowship building was enclosed and a two-story structure was built in order to provide an additional 4,000 sq. ft. of floor space. This afforded eight more classrooms and a large youth room as well as two additional bathrooms. The best estimate for the project was \$90,000 and would take up to three years to complete with mostly volunteer labor. The project began in March 1998. The loan was completely paid off on Aug. 10 at a cost of \$115,328.33. David Strebeck is pastor.



**Lorena Church, Smith Association**, recently held a Perfect Attendance Recognition service for the year 1999-2000. Pictured (from left) are Jim Praet, Sunday School superintendent; Betty Stewart, 11 years; Mayola Shirley, nine years; Gary McNeil, one year; Tommy Anderson, pastor, two years; Tip Arinder, two years; and Helen Faulkner, two years.



**Thirty-one participants** walked seven miles on the "rails to trails" from Carson to Prentiss on Oct. 21. The walk-a-thon was a fundraiser to raise money for the fellowship hall building at Society Hill Church, Jeff Davis Association. Each participant took pledges and was given a free "walking for a note" T-shirt donated by Judy Gatewood, a member of the fundraising committee. "We raised \$5,001 and were able to pay five notes on our building," said Vicky Langston, chairman of the fundraising committee. The church is planning an auction on Nov. 11. It will be an all day event with food, crafts, entertainment, and fun things for the kids.

## REVIVAL DATES

**LeMoyné Blvd., North Biloxi:** Nov. 26-29; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wednesday, senior luncheon at Sicily's, 11 a.m.; James E. Messer, evangelist; Phillip Willis, music; Bill Renick, pastor.

**North Carrollton, North Carrollton:** youth revival; Nov. 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Shannon Cobb, evangelist; Tom Edwards, worship leader.

**Bay Springs (Jasper):** Nov. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, Houston, evangelist; Daniel Lee, Magee, music; Brian Tillman, pastor.

**Cary, Cary:** Nov. 10-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Jimmy Lack, Pearl, music; Johnny R. Sanders, pastor.

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### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.** Good computer skills. Please submit resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, ATTN: Richard Collum, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056. Phone (601) 924-5620; fax (601) 924-5622.

**PART-TIME (BI-VOCATIONAL) MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Housing available. Thirty minutes from Memphis. Send resume to Slayden Baptist Church, 2534 Highway 72, Lamar, MS 38642 or call (662) 252-4559 or (662) 252-4520. Fax: (662) 252-5248. E-mail: sbchurch@dxie-net.com.

**SEEKING FULL-TIME YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER** for FBC Raleigh. Resumes may be faxed to (601) 782-9124, e-mailed to oln@megagate.com, or mailed to FBC Raleigh, P.O. Box 249, Raleigh, MS 39153. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Rev. O. Lyn Nations at (601) 782-4580 or (601) 782-9231.

**YOUTH MINISTER POSITION AVAILABLE** at Perkinston Baptist Church in the Gulf Coast Association. Please contact the church at (601) 928-7532, or send resume to P.O. Box 263, Perkinston, MS 39573.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC** needed for First Baptist Church of Byram. This is a fast growing area. Please send resume to First Baptist Church of Byram, 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR.** Send resume to Trinity Baptist Church, 2610 Napoleon Ave., Pearl, MS 39208.

**SEEKING FULL-TIME YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER** for FBC Waynesboro. Resumes may be faxed to (601) 735-7066 or mailed to FBC, ATTN: Pastor, 814 Azalea Drive, Waynesboro, MS 39367.

**CEDAR GROVE CHURCH,** Marion County is looking for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to 44 Cedar Grove Road, Columbia, MS 39429.

**ENON BAPTIST CHURCH,** Walthall County, is seeking to fill two part-time staff positions. Persons interested in serving as either minister of music or minister of youth should send resumes to the attention of the applicable search committee and addressed to: Enon Baptist Church, 1451 Hwy. 583 N., Jayess, MS 39641.

**FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED FOR** Bay Vista Baptist Church. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 2485 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531.

**CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED.** Full-time; good computer skill. Please submit resume to Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212, ATTN: Personnel Committee. Phone (601) 376-4100 or fax (601) 376-4110.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC, PART-TIME PIANIST.** Send resume, references, and picture to: Music Search Committee, Kilmichael Baptist Church, P.O. Box 142, Kilmichael, MS 39747. request application (662) 262-5507. Fax resume (662) 262-5570.



## THANK YOU

Editor:

To Ralph Windle, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, and Tommy Gillon, minister of music:

Thank you both for countless of hours spent praying, studying, visiting, and sharing Jesus Christ's Gospel.

To Ralph for not faltering the true Gospel, preaching God's message and sharing with all that will listen love, faith, hope. My walk with Christ is richly blessed and inspired through you.

Tommy, what joy and uplifting spirit I get from being around you, you're striving to do God's work and inspiring others to use talents of music to their best ability.

Barbara Peterson  
Mt. Zion Church

## DIFFERENT VIEW

Editor:

In Tony Martin's October 19 editorial, The Baptist Civil War, he stated, "While I'd certainly agree that the Bible is worth going to the mat over, I sure don't know what this latest squabble is about." I will not rehearse the issues, but if he or others truly don't know, click on [www.baptist2baptist.net](http://www.baptist2baptist.net) for starters.

The controversy is not about "petty matters." What is at stake is a different view of biblical authority, a different view of God's order for the family and church in the world, a different view of the establishment and enforcement of doctrinal standards for denominational agencies, and even a different view of missions.

Many doctrinal conservatives have their heads in the sand because they have come to

believe that toleration is a greater virtue than truth that really matters. The recent vote in Texas suggests that more are recognizing the impasse and are making decisions accordingly, but I wonder if many moderates who profess genuine love for the Scriptures are understanding that they are setting the stage for easier doctrinal defection in their own ranks and accommodating the future corruption of their witness.

Hal Haller  
Conyers, Ga.

## PRAISE FOR EMMAUS

Editor:

My wife and I recently returned from a three-day Christian renewal in Grenada called The Walk to Emmaus. We were a little skeptical at first, but after praying about it we felt totally comfortable with signing up.

After about a year of waiting we were finally going to our Walk to Emmaus. I went first on walk #127 and the next weekend my wife went on walk #128.

I can tell you that I have never felt so close to God and felt such Christian love in my entire life. My wife will tell you the same thing. I had three days of wonderful Christian fellowship with 36 men. We had a time to set aside all the things of the world including our watches and totally put ourselves in God's hands to minister to us for those three days.

It was truly a life changing experience for us. We saw God work in the hearts of many other men and women during our walks. Praise God for the work he does through Emmaus!

Scott Jones  
Yazoo City

## SEARCHING FOR BIBLE

Editor:

My great grandfather, David Burns Turnipseed, was born in Alabama in about 1830. He moved to Meridian some time before 1860. Some time before 1910, he retired to the Confederate Veterans home founded by the widow of Jefferson Davis at the Beauvoir manor in Gulfport.

Before moving to Beauvoir, however, he passed through Meridian and left his Bible with a cousin named Daisy. Daisy's family later turned the Bible over to Clarke College in Newton as a rare and collectible book.

My brother, Glyn D. Turnipseed, visited Clarke College and actually viewed the Bible. According to Glyn, there were written names of many of our relatives, locks of red hair, and other mementos and notes.

The Turnipseed Family Bible disappeared with the demise of Clarke College. I have contacted the long time librarian of Clarke College, The Baptist Record, and Mississippi College. No one has yet been able to help me locate this Bible, which is priceless to the Turnipseed family.

The librarian at Clarke College told me that the Bible possibly was sold at one of the sidewalk book sales that preceded the closing of the college.

I am the son of E. DeBerry Turnipseed, who was the son of John Lincoln Turnipseed, who was the son of David Burns Turnipseed. My family and I

would be very grateful for anyone having any knowledge of our Bible to contact me at 3452 Dundee Lane, Jackson, MS 39212.

D. Phil Turnipseed  
Jackson

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Editor:

The Ile de France team, part of the International Mission Board's International Service Corps, is seeking to reach out to the executive population of the Paris area.

The challenge is how to make contact with this segment of society and to involve those who are not active in any religious quest to become active in seeking the Truth of God.

The Paris team plans to enlist Christian Americans living and working in Paris to use their contacts as an outreach effort. One approach among several will be to have Americans conduct home Bible studies with work associates and neighbors as a way of encouraging religious inspiration.

If you are living in or moving to Paris, France, and are interested in this work, or know of Americans or other committed Christians now in the Paris area who would like to participate in such an effort, please contact us at Le Liberte, 34, rue Salvador Allende, 92000 Nanterre, France; E-mail: [davidnlola@compuserve.com](mailto:davidnlola@compuserve.com); Phone: 1.46.95.01.22

David and Lola Curran  
Executive Tentmaker Project coordinators



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## HOMEcomings

**Anding, Bentonia:** Nov. 12 Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. singing with the Magnolia State Quartet, Brookhaven; Joe K. Hill, pastor,

preaching; Glen Martin, Anding Church, music.

**Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** Nov. 12; regular morning services will be held with Joel Brister as guest

preacher in the 11 a.m. worship service; Thomas and Willa Moak, guest musicians; 1:30 p.m., music service will be held and D. L. Price, deacon for 43 years, will be honored; Price and his wife Alberta have been members of Bogue Chitto since 1947.

**Border Springs, Caledonia:** Nov. 12; worship, 11 a.m.; Carey Sansing, guest speaker; lunch followed by entertainment; Glen Edmonds, pastor.

of Eupora where he serves as minister of music and associate pastor. He previously served Calvary Church, West Point.



Bouchillon

**Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson,** has called Ross Johnson as minister of music effective Oct. 22. He previously served Wildwood Church, Clinton. A native of Marrero, La., Johnson is currently pursuing graduate studies at Mississippi College (MC). The church also called Anna Walden, a senior at MC and a native of Jackson, as youth minister, effective Sept. 6. Katrina Marler has begun serving as children's coordinator, effective Oct. 1.

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**Philip Caples** (right), pastor of Harmony Church, Pontotoc, and a senior ministerial student at Blue Mountain College (BMC), was recently presented the E.R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship. Dean William Washburn (left), the BMC representative on the Board of Ministerial Education, presented the scholarship.

**High School Weekend** at Blue Mountain College (BMC) for senior and junior girls will be held Nov. 17-18. For more information and reservations, call BMC at (800) 235-0136 by Nov. 10.

**Mississippi College (MC)** Office of Continuing Education is offering a one-day noncredit class, **How to Outclass the Competition**, on Nov. 18, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on campus. This course will include a reference workbook as well as a tutorial lunch. Registration fee is \$105. Deadline for registration is Nov. 15. Topics to be covered include: Communication Skills, How to Make an Entrance and Work the Room, Handshaking - the Ultimate Greeting, Forms of Address, Introducing Yourself and Others, Eye Contact, Rising to the Occasion, Remembering Names, Conversation Skills, Nonverbal Communications, Business Communications, Total Quality in the Business Arena, and other tips. An additional one-day seminar will be offered on Jan. 27, 2001, entitled **International Business Etiquette**. For information, call MC at (601) 925-3264 or E-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

**The Office of Continuing Education** at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the GRE Admission Test. The course, which offers 16 instructional hours of review, is scheduled to begin Nov. 7 and conclude on Nov. 11. The review cost is \$195. The Office of Education is also offering a series of reviews to assist students who are preparing to take the Dec. 9 American College Testing Assessment (ACT). Each review is \$15 and is independent of the other reviews, allowing students to attend only those that are pertinent to their needs. For more information, call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265.

**Mississippi College Leland Speed Library** will hold its annual **Used Book Sale** on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. It will be held in the area between the library

and Aven Hall. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase new materials for the library. Donations of materials for the library are accepted throughout the year. Check on-line at [www.mc.edu/campus/library/giftpol.htm](http://www.mc.edu/campus/library/giftpol.htm) for more information about the library gift policy. For other information on the sale, call (601) 925-3232.

**Blue Mountain College** department of speech and theater will present Tennessee Williams' play, **The Glass Menagerie**, as its fall production. The production, under the direction of Jim Andre of Memphis, Tenn., will run from Nov. 14-Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Garrett Fine Arts Center on campus. A school matinee performance will be available on Nov. 15. For additional information about tickets and reservations, call (662) 685-4771 ext. 131.

## Jewish scholars issue statement on Christianity

BALTIMORE (ABP) — In response to improved relations between Christians and Jews, a group of Jewish scholars has issued a statement of common ground between the two faiths.

Among pronouncements, the document says that modern Christians are not to blame for the Nazi Holocaust, but it also says that Christians should respect Jewish beliefs and not attempt to convert Jews to Christianity.

A total of 180 Jewish leaders had signed "A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity" as of Sept. 20, according to the Institute of Jewish-Christian Relations in Baltimore, which sponsored a national scholar's project that drafted the document.

The statement describes "a dramatic and unprecedented shift" taking place in relations between the two faiths. It cited statements by Catholic and Protestant groups expressing remorse for the Holocaust and other mistreatment of Jews across history.

"We believe these changes merit a thoughtful Jewish response," the scholars say. "Speaking only for ourselves — an interdenominational group of Jewish scholars — we believe it is time for Jews to learn about the efforts of Christians to honor Judaism. We believe it is

time for Jews to reflect on what Judaism may now say about Christianity. As a first step, we offer eight brief statements about how Jews and Christians may relate to one another."

Among the items contained in the document:

- "Jews and Christians worship the same God." Like Jews, Christians also worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the statement says. "While Christian worship is not a viable religious choice for Jews, as Jewish theologians we rejoice that, through Christianity, hundreds of millions of people have entered into relationship with the God of Israel."

- "Jews and Christians seek authority from the same book." Jews call their Bible the "Tanakh," while Christians call it the "Old Testament."

Christians and Jews interpret the Bible in different ways, the statement says, but "such differences must always be respected."

- "Christians can respect the claim of the Jewish people upon the land of Israel."

- "Jews and Christians accept the moral principles of the Torah."

- "Nazism was not a Christian phenomenon."

- "The humanly irreconcilable difference between Jews and Christians will not be settled until God redeems the entire world as promised in Scripture."

- "A new relationship between Jews and Christians will not weaken Jewish practice."

"An improved relationship will not accelerate the cultural and religious assimilation that Jews rightly fear," the statement says. "It will not change

traditional Jewish forms of worship, nor increase intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews, nor persuade more Jews to convert to Christianity, nor create a false blending of Judaism and Christianity," the statement says.

"We respect Christianity as a faith that originated within Judaism and that still has significant contacts with it. We do not see it as an extension of Judaism. Only if we cherish our own traditions can we pursue this relationship with integrity."

- "Jews and Christians must work together for justice and peace."

Both faiths are guided by the Old Testament prophets' calls to "work to bring justice and peace to our world," the statement says.

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# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## The suffering servant

Isaiah 53

By Heather Cumberland

Before you read this column, please take a moment to read Isaiah 53. Even if you have read it a hundred times before, please read it again. Before you read it, however, ask God to reveal to you something in this passage that you have never seen or thought of before.

This passage is a prophetic message concerning Jesus' life and death. It begins by telling us that "he had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him" (Is. 53:2).

I believe that the reason many of the Jews did not accept Jesus as their king is because they were expecting someone with money and prestige. They did not understand that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world but of Heaven.

I have heard celebrities say before that the only bad thing about being rich and famous is that they never know if their friends like them for who they really are or because they have money.

Think about it; if God sent Jesus to earth with money, power, and prestige many people would have followed him strictly because he was "the one to know."

By coming with "nothing in his appearance" (v. 2), Jesus knew that the people who followed him did so because they had enough faith in him to believe he was who he said he was.

Isaiah 53:5 should touch the heart of any born-again believer. Christ went through horrific suffering and pain so that we

could know what peace feels like. He was wounded so that we could be healed. This healing may be a physical healing, but it is also an emotional and spiritual healing.

Has there been a time in your life when you were so wounded physically, emotionally, or spiritually that you thought of giving up? Maybe you are going through that time right now.

These are the times we must remember that Christ is there to give us comfort and hope when it seems as though there is no hope. It is by his wounds that we are healed; we only need to step back and allow God to begin healing our wounds.

When my father died a couple of years ago I was wounded. My spirit was crushed. I could not understand why God would take him out of this world so soon.

It was not until several months after he died that I began

to allow God to heal my wounds. Once God healed my wounds, I began to feel at peace again.

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth" (v. 7). Every time Herod or Pilate questioned Jesus he remained silent (Matt. 27:12-14; Mk. 14:60-61; Lk. 23:8-9).

When the people were hurling insults at him and striking his face, he did not retaliate. He carried the burden for our sins to the cross and he did so without regret. That is how much Jesus loves us.

The last part of verse seven compares Jesus to a sheep or a lamb. This is an important comparison because Israelites were instructed by God to sacrifice sheep in order to atone for their sins.

By placing their sins on the lamb and sacrificing it, they were symbolically letting go of their sins. That is what Jesus did for us. God laid the sins of every human being on Jesus (v. 6b) while he was on the cross. When Jesus died, he was the sacrifice for every person from that point on.

The very last verse of Chapter 53 sums up what Jesus did for us. "He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors (v. 12)."

Intercession, as defined by Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, is the act of intervening between parties with a view to reconcile differences.

Jesus intercedes on our (the transgressors') behalf to reconcile sin that we commit against God. Through Jesus' death we have forgiveness of sin. This does not mean that we will never have to pay the consequences of our sin. Jesus did not come to give us freedom to sin, but freedom from sin.

If sin has taken control of your life and it seems as though there is no hope, remember that Christ died so there would be hope.

Pray that God will forgive you and that he will help you turn from your sin. Then and only then will you be free from sin.

Cumberland is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Obedying the Spirit

Acts 13:1-52

By Wayne VanHorn

Our lesson on obeying the Spirit inaugurates a new unit of study, "Doing Missions." Having introduced to us the church at Antioch in Acts 11, Luke now proceeds to show how this church was used by the Holy Spirit to launch evangelistic efforts on a larger scale.

A gap of almost five years exists between James' martyrdom (Acts 12:1) and the sending out of Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:1ff.).

**Receiving the Spirit's call (Acts 13:1-2).** We are familiar with Barnabas and Saul from earlier episodes in Acts, but little is known of the other men mentioned in 13:1 except that Manaen had been brought up with Herod Antipas.

How ironic that of these two men, Herod and Manaen, who grew up together as boys, one

would behead John the Baptist and figure in Jesus' crucifixion and the other would become a spokesman for Jesus!

Luke proceeds to tell us that the church was worshipping and fasting (NIV) when the Holy Spirit instructed them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for a special work (13:2). Please note that the Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to this ministry, but he requested that the church send them out. The Lord wants churches to participate in evangelistic missions to which he is calling people.

**Following the Spirit's leadership (Acts 13:3-4).** The church had been fasting and worshipping when the Spirit gave word for Barnabas and Saul to be sent out. Before carrying out the command, the church fasted and prayed some more.

Luke seeks to remind us that nothing was done on a whim or out of selfish ambition. They laid hands on them, an act of corporate support and encouragement, and sent them away.

The first official international mission venture was launched from Seleucia, a port city some five miles from Antioch. Barnabas and Saul headed for Cyprus the homeland island of Barnabas. No specific reason is given for this destination and we are left to wonder if this is an example of Barnabas the Encourager interceding to bring his native land the good news.

**Working where the Spirit sends (Acts 13:44-51).** Luke tells us little of the ministry on the island of Cyprus except that Barnabas and Saul traveled the whole island from Salamis in the east to Paphos in the west (13:5-6), that Paul uttered a curse of blindness over Elymas the sorcerer resulting in the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, believing (13:6-12), and that Saul was also called Paul (13:9).

The next major destination is

Pisidian Antioch (modern day Turkey), not to be confused with Syrian Antioch from which city the journey had begun.

Paul availed himself of the opportunity to speak in the synagogue (13:15-41) about Jesus. Luke tells us he received an invitation to speak again the following Sabbath (13:42), that many people, Jews and Gentiles, followed Paul and Barnabas with some interest (13:43), and that "almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord" the following Sabbath (13:44).

The size of the crowds stirred jealousy among the Jews, who now spoke openly against Paul and Barnabas (13:45). The first missionary endeavor met with stiff opposition.

How should Christians respond to such antagonism? Luke tells us that Paul and Barnabas "answered them boldly," meaning they spoke freely and unencumbered by what their adversaries might think or say (13:46). Luke presents this Jewish opposition as God's design for Paul to become the Apostle to the Gentiles (13:46b-47; see Acts 9:15).

The pattern of Paul's work is thus set. He begins in the Jewish synagogue, is rejected, and then he goes to the Gentiles. The pattern is repeated time and again.

The Gentiles "were glad" and "honored the word of the Lord" believing unto salvation (13:48). The word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region (13:49) resulting in persecution and expulsion from the region of Paul and Barnabas (13:50). Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet, symbolizing their disassociation from the disbelieving Jews.

**Filling by the Spirit (Acts 13:52).** Did persecution and opposition thwart the first missionary journey? No! The disciples were filled with "joy and the Holy Spirit."

We too should take the message of Jesus to those who have not heard. We should expect opposition but also success. If even one person comes to Jesus as a result of our efforts, God is pleased.

Let's do like Paul and Barnabas and obey the Spirit.

VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**



# Baptist helps produce hymnal for the blind

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The sparkle in Leigh Scott's eyes belie the fact that he has been blind for the past 30 years.

Scott, a member of Fairfield Highlands Church in Birmingham, Ala., is helping to produce the new braille and large-print editions of the Baptist Hymnal, 1991, published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

including studies in massage therapy, hydrotherapy, and acupuncture.

A resident of Birmingham since 1994, Scott is a trained physical therapist and a doctor of acupuncture. He has taught massage therapy, reflexology, and aromatherapy. He has been affiliated with the University of Alabama and is completing steps to attain U.S. citizenship next year.

Meanwhile, he met and married his Birmingham-born wife, Jacalyn, who introduced him to Fairfield Highlands Church.

Not one to be easily discouraged, Scott had been searching for a braille hymnal when he contacted LifeWay, inquiring about such a resource. When he learned none was available, he asked to speak with someone in music.

Dan Johnson, team leader for production and process in LifeWay Music Ministries, became Scott's contact. As conversations continued, Scott agreed to partner with LifeWay to produce the hymnal's braille edition.

The words-only braille hymnal, released Oct. 1, includes a table of contents, hymns, responsive readings, and information on how to become a Christian. Hymn numbers and responsive reading numbers will correspond to those in the print edition, though the braille edition will have different page numbers.

The set consists of two 3-inch-thick, three-ring polyurethane binders for easy access, and removal of pages. The binders have extended handles with snap closures, for easy carrying.

Each page has 25 lines with 38 characters per line in interpoint braille on 80-pound paper. A rigid polyurethane sheet, found in the front of the hymnal, is provided to support the Braille pages removed from the binders for use in worship times.

Preparation for the new edition required transcription of all the words to computer disks, a task that took three transcriptionists approximately three

months, Scott said.

Scott said that having been previously sighted "gives me empathy to help others."

Theological studies may be in his future, he said. "I just pray I am going in the right direction. I just want to work for the Lord. This is my calling in life."



**JOINT PROJECT** — Leigh Scott (right), a member of Fairfield Highlands Church in Birmingham is helping to produce the new braille and large-print editions of the Baptist Hymnal, 1991. Dan Johnson, team leader for production and process in LifeWay Music Ministries, became Scott's contact. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

A native of Pretoria, South Africa, Scott grew up healthy and sighted, the third of four boys in what he recalls as "a house of love."

At the age of 14, he was mysteriously taken with a high fever. While in the hospital, he was given an accidental overdose of a drug that left him clinically dead for three and one-half minutes and paralyzed and comatose for the following four months.

Scott believes it was through his mother's prayers and the prayers of others that he awoke from the coma.

"I think the Lord hears a mother's plea more so than he hears those of men," he reflected.

When he was able to resume his schooling, Scott left his classmates behind to attend a school for blind children. His education continued well into adulthood,



**FAST READER** — Leigh Scott, a member of Fairfield Highlands Church in Birmingham, Ala., demonstrates the manner in which visually-challenged people read text. Leigh quickly reads braille with his fingers by feeling the raised bumps on the page. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Bibliocipher

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Clue: W = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Twenty-Six.

## New survey notes challenge of reaching children

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "Churches that aren't reaching out to children are missing the mark," a church growth and evangelism expert told participants in the National Preschool and Children's Convention, Oct. 16-19 at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., listed characteristics shared by churches that are reaching children.

The shared traits were discovered through a survey conducted by the Billy Graham school focusing on the "Bridger" generation, those born between 1977-94, Rainer said.

The survey showed, first of all, that churches reaching children are intentional in targeting young people through evangelistic activities.

In a random telephone survey, Rainer said researchers talked to four generations: Builders (born before 1946), Boomers (born between 1946-64), Busters (born from 1965 -76) and Bridgers

(1977-94). For survey purposes, only those Bridgers 17 years old and older were questioned.

Out of the 1,300 people interviewed, Rainer noted alarm at the low percentage of people in each group who responded that they considered themselves Christians

based on having accepted Christ as personal Savior.

Of the Builder generation, 65% were Christians; Boomer generation, 35%; Buster generation, 15%; and Bridger generation, only 4%.

"Of these people, 75% of them became Christians before

the age of 14," Rainer said.

Lois Fisher, a preschool resource person for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and a preschool, children, and youth worker at Miami Shores Church in Dayton, said she was surprised at the drop in the percentage of people from one generation to the next who are Christians.

"That tells me we've got to start praying more," she said.

"I'm afraid our churches have been failing these children and teenagers. We've got to do better. They need us," she pointed out.

Among the characteristics listed by Rainer:

Churches that reach children understand the pervasiveness of the media.

"In kids under the age of 12, studies indicate they spend 22 hours a week in front of the television, 10 hours a week listening to the radio, 10 hours a week on the Internet, nine hours a week listening to recorded music like CDs and four hours a week watching movies and rented videos," Rainer said.



**REACHING CHILDREN** — Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., speaks at the National Preschool and Children's Convention, Oct. 16-19, at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)